

R E M A R K S

A Request for Continued Examination accompanies this paper for the purpose of removing the finality of the pending Office Action and to obtain entry and consideration on the merits of the above-noted claim amendments.

Claims 8, 20, 26, 28-30, 32 and 33 are in the application, with Claims 8 and 20 having been amended, and with Claims 9-11, 21-23, 27 and 31 having been cancelled. Claims 8 and 20 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 8, 20, 26, 28-30, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Buist, U.S. Patent No. 6,408,282.

The two independent claims, namely claims 8 and 20, have each now been amended to recite that the intermediate components which make up the intermediate layer include at least a “first intermediate component that provides a cache for information concerning financial instruments”, and a “second intermediate component that stores user preferences for the workspace”. Support for the component that provides a cache for information concerning financial instruments is found at paragraph 61 of this application as published. Support for the component that stores user preferences for the workspace is found at paragraph 70 of this application as published.

It is believed that these claim amendments have overcome the rejection of the claims based on the Buist reference. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Buist that the intermediate layer of servers 40 shown in FIG. 2 of the reference includes either one of the specific types of intermediate components now recited in claims 8 and 20. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 8 and 20 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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